

GLS Destination - Bremen



550.000 inhabitants

Why we like Bremen: Bremen Town Musicians, Town hall, Schoor quarter, Böttcherstraße, Schlachte Embankment, Blockland

GLS Coordinator: James Johnston and Nele Kuhlmann-Lehmkuhle

Our local coordinators James and Nele care for the GLS students in Bremen. In this interview they tell us about themselves and their city.

Could you introduce yourself?



We, James and Nele are your local coordinators in Bremen. We have a longtime experience in supporting foreign exchange students and you are always welcome to talk with us whenever you have questions, problems or suggestions. We assist you to settle in well and try our best to make you feel comfortable. You are always invited to take part at our regular activities and we are excited to get to know you!

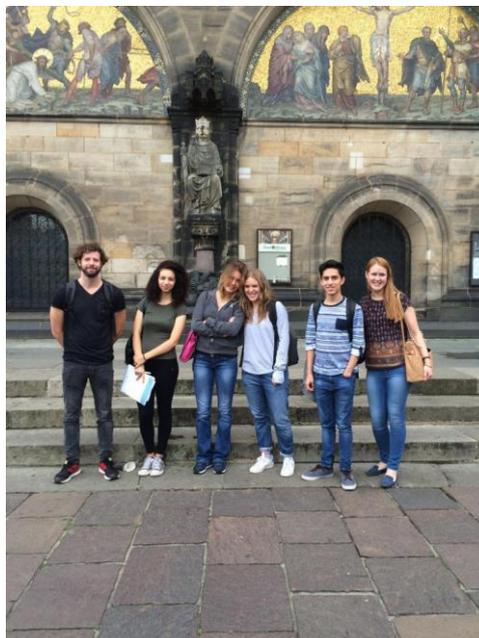
What can you tell us about the city of Bremen?



Bremen is located in the northern part of Germany and belongs to the largest cities of the country. One of the most characteristic features of Bremen is the river Weser. A beautiful promenade called “Die Schlachte” is situated directly by the water and offers a perfect mixture of entertainment, souvenir shops and culinary treats.

Bremen provides you a great balance between culture and leisure activities. Everything is in a close proximity that guarantees you a quick connection with the bike, bus or tram wherever you want to go. People of Bremen also speak High German which will help to improve your language skills very fastly!

How do the students arrive in Nürnberg?



For us it is very important that you get to know your contact persons before you arrive in Germany. Therefor we try our best to solve any of your open questions to make your move to Bremen easily. All GLS high school students first take part in an orientation weekend in Berlin and then travel to Bremen afterwards. They arrive in Bremen either by train or by bus. Ourselves and the students' host families welcome them when they arrive at the station. This is a very happy and exciting moment for everyone, as we finally get to meet each other! Usually we all talk a lot and everybody is curious to find out more about each other.

How do you find great host families in Bremen?



We find our host families through brochures, announcements and targeted advertisements. As soon as we get in contact with interested families we start collecting information and make an appointment for a first visit at their home. Those visits are essentially for us to evaluate their suitability as a host family. We clarify any open questions and get to know the family and surroundings better. You can make sure that we examine our host families precisely and look forward to send you some information and photos before your arrival to give you some first impressions.

Can you tell us about the schools in your city and how you choose a suitable school for the students?



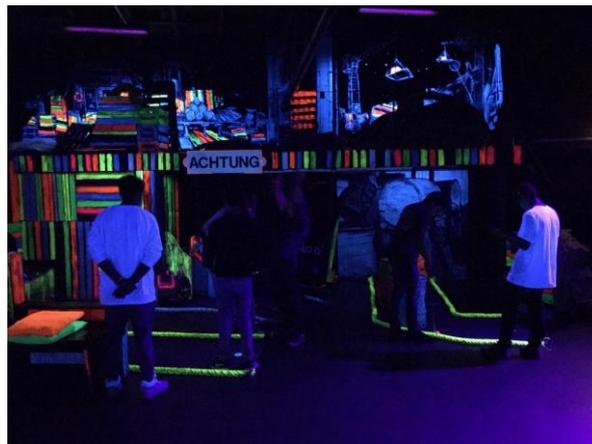
Bremen offers a wide spectrum of different high schools (Gymnasien) that provide best care for foreign exchange students. We stay in a good contact with the schools and favor the professional cooperation. The schools differ in their focus areas, for example some schools have a linguistic specialization whereas others may focus on the natural sciences, humanistic sciences, music or sports. When a student plays a musical instrument, for instance, then we would choose a musical Gymnasium. When the student studies Old Greek or Latin in their home country, then we would pick a humanistic Gymnasium. And if the student loves sports, then of course we choose a Gymnasium with a focus on sports.

High school students have school holidays during their time in Germany, for example on Christmas or on Easter. What do the students do during their holidays?



Being a host family means integration and seeing the student as a part of the own family. Many students commence a lot with their host families during the holidays and become involved in their daily routines very well. Furthermore we also offer a big variety of activities and will assist you to find something that you like or want to have a try at.

What kind of free-time activities can students take part in?



Whether you like museums, cinemas, theaters or extraordinary adventures like playing Minigolf at a black light hall or Lasertag - Bremen offers many attractions. If you are an active person you are welcome to take part in various sport clubs, like the skate or the swim club. When the weather is nice out you can walk along the "Schlachte" promenade or enjoy a cold drink at a cozy café on the city beach with your friends. We also organize a lot of free- time activities where we visit various cities and places nearby.

What if students have problems during their time in Germany, for example with homesickness?

During your stay abroad it is completely normal that difficulties with homesickness can occur. We are attuned to support you and your host family in regard of any problems and wishes. In general we want to give you the sensation that you can always speak up to us whenever there is something you want to talk about. We believe that there is a solution for every problem.

GLS wishes you a happy welcome to Bremen!